

# Partners for Fish and Wildlife

## South Carolina



photo: Wes Cooler



photo: USFWS/Joe Cockrell



photo: John Blackwell, Jr.



photo: USFWS/Joe Cockrell



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### Photos, top to bottom:

*Reforestation of riparian area along degraded stream in the Upcountry region.*

*Longleaf pine forest restoration in the Sandhills region four years after planting.*

*Endangered wood storks foraging at a restored wetland in Lowcountry region.*

*Discussing option for wildlife habitat improvement with a landowner in the agricultural Pee Dee region.*

### Opportunities on Private Lands

#### Habitat Improvement

- Wetlands and associated uplands.
- Migratory bird habitat.
- Forested riparian buffers.
- Longleaf pine.
- Threatened and endangered species.

#### Technical assistance

##### To landowners:

- Habitat improvement recommendations.

##### To USDA-NRCS:

- Wetland Reserve Program.
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.
- Other Farm Bill Conservation Programs.

### Partnerships

Our primary partners are numerous individual **private landowners**. Other partners include the following organizations and agencies:

American Chestnut Foundation  
Bamberg Conservation District  
Brookgreen Gardens  
Charleston Natural History Society  
Chapin High School

Ducks Unlimited  
Greenlawn Baptist Church  
Farm Service Agency  
Foothills RC&D Council  
Lowcountry RC&D Council  
National Audubon Society  
USDA-NRCS  
SC Native Plant Society  
SC Department of Corrections  
SC Department of Natural Resources  
SC Waterfowl Association  
Telephone Pioneers of America  
The Bishop Gravatt Center  
The Nature Conservancy  
Trinity Collegiate School  
University of South Carolina  
USDA-NRCS  
West Ashley High School

### Accomplishments

(100 projects, 1993 – 2006)

Longleaf pine forest ..... 3,680 acres  
Wetlands ..... 2,475 acres  
Native grasses ..... 50 acres  
Atlantic white cedar bog ..... 8 acres  
Endangered plants ..... 13 acres  
Invasive plant species ..... 13 acres  
Riparian ..... 2 miles  
In-stream habitat ..... 1.75 miles  
Six education projects.

## South Carolina Partners for Fish and Wildlife

### Questions and Answers

*What is Partners for Fish & Wildlife?*

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife program restores, improves, and protects fish and wildlife habitat on private lands through alliances between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other organizations and individuals, while leaving the land in private ownership.

*Who are the Partners?*

Anyone can be a partner: farmers, ranchers, rural landowners, local agencies, private organizations, corporations, educational institutions or anyone interested in the conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands.

*Why is Partners for Fish and Wildlife important to you?*

The future of the nation's fish and wildlife depends on the private landowner.

Over two-thirds of our nation's land is privately owned and contains some of the most important fish and wildlife habitat in the United States. The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program can restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat and contribute to the health of the land and the quality of life for the people living on it.

Three-quarters of the wetlands remaining in the United States are privately owned. Wetlands are vital to both wildlife and people. Millions of birds, mammals and other animals depend on wetlands for food, spawning and nursery areas. Nearly one-third of America's endangered and threatened plants and animals need wetlands for survival.

Wetlands also benefit people by providing natural flood water storage, recreational opportunities, recharging ground water supplies, filtering pollutants, and providing irrigation water.

The key is partnerships! Working together, teaming up to meet local needs, address issues, and take advantage of local opportunities.

*What can Partners for Fish & Wildlife do for you?*

### Technical Assistance

If you need help solving a land management problem, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can provide assistance, or help facilitate assistance through other agencies, on a variety of issues including:

- Native plant restoration.
- Wetland restoration and protection.
- Nest structures or nesting islands.
- Food and shelter for fish and wildlife.
- Soil and water quality improvement.
- Moist-soil management.
- Stream restoration.

If your property contains damaged habitat that can be restored for wildlife; or, if you want to manage a portion of your property for wildlife, but don't know where to begin, we may be able to work with you to develop and implement a plan that meets your needs. We can help with providing certain structures, excavation, establishing bottomland hardwood trees and other vegetation, and much more.

Technical assistance is also available to landowners through U.S. Department of Agriculture programs and various programs available through state fish and wildlife agencies and certain conservation organizations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will assist you in recognizing opportunities within these programs. How do I become a Partner?

Individual landowners can become involved by contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A biologist will contact you to discuss your needs, the opportunities available, and assist you as possible. If your project meets certain criteria, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may share or pay certain costs.

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